

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-35 are pending in the application, with 1, 14, 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35 being the independent claims. New claims 14-35 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Applicants note for the record that the new claims 14-35 of the present application have been copied from pending claims 1-25 of U.S. Application No. 09/598,968. Also, applicants note that they are concurrently requesting an interference with the '968 application. Support for new claims can be found in the Request for Interference submitted herewith.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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